

## The Tragedy of Hamlet

*The Trumpets sound. Dumb show follows.*

*Enter a King and a Queene, the Queene embracing him, and he her he takes her up, and declines his head vpon her necke, he lies him downe vpon a bancke of flowers, she seeing him a sleepe, leaues him: anon comes in an other man, take s off his crowne, kisses it, pours poyson in the sleepers eares, and leaues him: the Queene returnes, finds the King dead, makes passionate action, the poysoner with some three or foure comes in againe, seeme to condole with her, the dead body is carried away, the poysoner wres the Queene with gifts, she seemes harsh awhile, but in the end accepts loue.*

*Oph.* What meanes this my Lord?

*Ham.* Marry this munching Mallico, it meanes mischief.

*Oph.* Belike this show imports the argument of the play.

*Ham.* We shall know by this fellow, *Enter prologue.*  
The players cannot keepe they'le tell all.

*Oph.* Will a tell us what this show meant?

*Ham.* I or any show that you will show him, be not you asham'd to show heele not shame to tell you what it meanes.

*Oph.* You are naught, you are naught, Ile marke the play.

*Prologue.* For vs and for our Tragedie,  
Heere stooping to your clemencie,  
We begge your hearing patiently.

*Ham.* Is this a Prologue or the posic of a ring?

*Oph.* Tis breefe my Lord.

*Ham.* As womans loue.

*Enter King and Queene.*

*King.* Full thirty times hath Phaëbus Cart gone round  
Neptunes salt wash, and Tellus orb'd the ground,  
And thirey dosen moones with borrowed sheene  
About the world haue times twelue thirties beene  
Since loue our hearts, and Hymen did our hands  
Vnite comutuell in most sacred bands.

*Quee.* So many iourneyes may the Sunne and Moone  
Make vs againe count ore ere loue bee doone,  
But woe is me you are so sicke of late,  
So farre from cheere, and from our former state,  
That I distrust you, yet though I distrust,  
Discomfort you my Lord it nothing must.

For women feare too much, euen as they loue,  
And womens feare and loue hold quantity,  
Either none, in neither ought, or in extremity,  
Now what my Lord is poofe hath made you know,  
And as my loue is ciz't, my feare is so,  
Where loue is great, the littlest boubts are feare,  
Where little feares grow great, great loue growes there.

*King.* Faith I must leaue thee loue, and shortly to,  
My operant powers their functions leaue to do,  
And thou shalt liue in this fare world behind,  
Honord, belou'd, and haply one as kind,  
For husband shalt thou.

*Quee.* O confound the rest.  
Such loue must needs be treason in my brest,  
In second husband let me be accurst,  
None wed the second, but who kild the first.  
The instances that second marriage moue  
Are base respects of thrift, but none of loue,  
A second time I kill my husband dead,  
When second husband kisses me in bed.

*Ham.* That's  
wormwood.

*King.* I doe beleuee you thinke what now you speake,  
But what we doe determine, oft we breake,  
Pnrpose is but the slave to memory,  
Of violent birth, but poore validity,  
Which now the fruite vnripe sticks on the tree,  
But fall vnshaken when they mellow bee.  
Most necessary tis that we forget  
To pay our selues what to our selues is debt,  
What to our selues in passion we propose,  
The passion ending, doth the purpose lose,  
The violence of either, grieve, or ioy,  
Their owne ennaatures with themselves destroy,  
Where ioy most reuels, grieve doth most lament,  
Greefe ioy, ioy grieves, on slender accedent,  
This world is not for aye, nor tis not strange,  
That euen our loues should with our fortunes change,  
For tis a question left vs yet to proue,  
Whether loue lead fortune, or else fortune loue.  
The great man downe, you marke his fauourite flies,

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